

ST. THOMAS LIFELINES

VOLUME 32, No. 6

JUNE 2025

Dear St. Thomas Family,

On May 18, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, our bishop, the Right Reverend Mark Bourlakas ended the Eucharist at St. John's Lynchburg by laying his crozier (bishop's staff) on the altar. This was the symbolic gesture of his last official visitation in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, where he has been our diocesan bishop since 2013. After twelve years in office, Bishop Bourlakas will begin ministry in the Diocese of Virginia as an Assistant to their bishop, the Right Reverend Mark Stevenson. Bishop Bourlakas will be based in Alexandria for his new ministry.

And with our bishop's transition to a new ministry, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia begins the journey of seeking a new bishop. In the meantime, the Standing Committee, which serves as counsel to the bishop, fills the administrative roles of the diocesan bishop. The process of identifying qualified candidates has already begun with the naming of a Search Committee which will create a Diocesan Profile and present a slate of nominees to the Standing Committee for election. The Reverend Sara Lusk, curate at Christ Church, Blacksburg, has been named chair of the search committee.

The Search Committee will be hosting "listening sessions" across the diocese on June 7, to which all members are invited to share their thoughts concerning how we present ourselves in the Diocesan Profile and to more clearly articulate who we are looking for in a new bishop. It is hoped that the profile will be published by the end of July. The Search Committee will then receive the names of nominees from members of the diocese, conduct interviews, discern the top candidates and deliver a slate of candidates to the Standing Committee for election.

The election is expected to be held at our next Diocesan Convention in Roanoke January 30-31. Our lay delegates for that convention are Lora Beeken and Janet Webster, with Val Tweedie and Kathy Fowler serving as alternates. I think as the convention draws near, it may be helpful if we also have a listening session so that our thoughts and opinions might be shared at this crucial time in the life of the diocese.

I ask your prayers for all members of the diocese who are involved with the search, election, and transition of our seventh diocesan bishop. Pray also for our new bishop, whose identity is known only to God as of now.

Yours in Christ,

Mark



Farewell & Godspeed

On the Fifth Sunday of Easter, following my celebration of the Holy Eucharist, I laid the diocesan crozier on the altar symbolizing the end of my tenure as the sixth bishop of this diocese.

It will now lie dormant until it is picked up by the faithful priest you elect to be your next shepherd.

It has been my honor and blessing to serve as your chief pastor and friend for these past twelve years.

You will be in my prayers always and I look forward to being with you to celebrate the consecration of the seventh bishop of this diocese.

Peace,

Mark Bourlakas

From the Bishop's final update, May 22.



Judy Koland Memorial Garden

Judy Koland's son, Jeff and his wife Anne, visited St. Thomas on May 24th for the interment of Judy's ashes into the columbarium. The Altar Guild as well as many of Judy's friends attended and had a chance to talk with Jeff and Anne. They reported that Judy's husband, Laddy, is thriving in the assisted living home in Morris, Minnesota. Laddy's 90th birthday is June 1st. Jeff and Anne were grateful for the garden and plaque in Judy's memory.

Thank You!

Karen B. would like to thank folks for their support of the project to prepare the memorial garden for Judy Koland. Time, research, contributions, and work were graciously given by Ruth and Harold, Liz, Danielle, Joe R, Ann A., and Marie. Thanks also to folks for helping with the watering.

Back Pack Program Update

With schools out for the summer the last backpack party was held May 6. Fliers were put in the bags directing the families to MCEAP and Agape for food during the summer. We will continue to collect granola bars over the course of the summer, and have them ready for the first backpack party in the fall. Look for the pink collection basket in the parish hall and Thanks to ALL for keeping this ministry ALIVE!

We collected 17 boxes of granola bars in May!

Trex Update

We are on our way to acquiring another Trex bench. 71 lbs. were collected in May, and 720 lbs. are needed to reach the goal of 1000 lbs.

Tom Bernard has requested the next bench be donated to the Boys Home Cottage that St. Thomas sponsors.

Hospitality Sunday

Join in fellowship and enjoy some refreshments after church on the first Sunday of the month. Everyone is invited to bring a dish of finger food to share!

The next hospitality Sunday is June 1.



Room At the Table.... RATT

On Tuesday, May 13, St. Thomas's RATT team prepared 110 meals for those in our community that are food insecure. Kathleen Fowler, Shelly Good, Marie Painter, Crystal Priddy, Liz Swinfen, and Danielle Bland made up the team. Baked chicken, potato salad, applesauce and a cookie completed the meal. Our next opportunity to prepare a meal will be Tuesday, June 10. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Danielle Bland. No experience necessary! Come see what we do!

Food Bank Sunday

On the first Sunday of the month we collect donations of non-perishable food items for the food bank. Donations are taken to MCEAP later in the week. Food donations can be put in the baskets at the entrance to the church. If you would like to make a monetary donation, be sure to mark "Food Bank" on your check or envelope.

In May we collected 33 items and \$35.

Anniversaries

- 10 Drew & Kelly Tardy
30 Walter & Kathleen Fowler

Birthdays

- 1 Val Tweedie
2 Mark Priest
4 Tony Beeken
5 Benjamin Morgan
6 Evelyn Frazier
9 Tristan McCarthy
10 Emily Pasciak
11 Matthew Pollard
15 Dara Ndem
16 Harvey Leist
20 Stan Guthrie
22 Jon Greene
23 Barbara Piersol
26 Tom Bland
30 Sam Okoronkwo

The Choir celebrated the end of their 2024-2025 season with a meal at a local restaurant. They will take a break for summer and return this fall.

Pictured: Crystal Priddy, John Priddy-Pianist, Larry & Kathy Pollard, Jane Ellis, Harold & Ruth Ashworth, Fr. Mark, Amy Frazier-Choir Director, Anne Curry, Gail Leist, Lora Beeken, Danielle & Tom Bland, Graham & Liz Swinfen, Betty & Bill Kennan



Sunday, June 8 is the Day of
Pentecost.

Remember to wear red (yellow, or orange) as a reminder and reflection of the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Sunday Summer Suppers

We are looking for hosts for the June and July summer suppers. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Mark or the parish office. Jane Carper will host our August Supper.

SERVER SCHEDULE

	1	8	15	22	29
Altar Guild	Karen Bronaugh Gail Leist	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken	Ruth Ashworth Lora Beeken	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard	Kathleen Fowler Kathryn Pollard
Announcements	Joe Richmeier	Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth	Danielle Bland	
Coffee Hour	Jennifer Miller				
Lay Reader	Mark Priest	Jennifer Miller	Bill Kennan	Mark Priest	
Ushers	Joe Straub Chris Witt	Harold Ashworth Bill Kennan	Kathleen Fowler Chris Witt	Tom Bernard Joel Hagen	Jane Ellis Joe Straub
Zoom Operators	Joel Hagen	Mark Priest	Joel Hagen	Mark Priest	Mark Priest

Contact Us: mysttthomasoffice@yahoo.com, 540-382-4365

Website: <https://stthomaschristiansburg.org>

Volunteer: <https://stthomas.ivolunteer.com>

Email List Signup: <http://eepurl.com/gxP6Dj>

Giving! As well as the Sunday collection plate, donations and contributions can be mailed to the church, paid through online banking, or made through PayPal using the link on our website.

Zoom Information for Thursdays

Join from a computer:

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/89544248014>

Meeting ID: 895 4424 8014

Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 309 205 3325 and Enter

Meeting ID 895 4424 8014.

Zoom Information for Sundays

Join from a computer:

[https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?](https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/81739544575?pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPdz09)

pwd=M1g3eHNhaURDdFIRQ1BPTGNEN3NPdz09

Join from a Telephone: Dial +1 646 931 3860 and

Enter Meeting ID 817 3954 4575 and Passcode 845478 .

JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 The 7th Sunday of Easter Hospitality & Food Bank Sunday 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum	2	3 7pm NA	4 8pm NA	5 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	6 8pm NA	7
8 The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum 11am Worship Committee Meeting	9	10 7pm NA	11 8pm NA	12 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	13 8pm NA	14
15 The 1st Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday Loose Plate Offering → Rector's Discretionary 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum Happy Father's Day!	16	17 7pm NA	18 8pm NA	19 10:15am DOK 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	20 8pm NA	21
22 The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum 11:30am Vestry	23	24 7pm NA	25 8pm NA	26 1pm Watercolor Class 7pm Evening Prayer on Zoom	27 8pm NA	28
29 The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 10am Holy Eucharist in person & on Zoom 11:20am Adult Forum	30				If you need to meet with Fr. Mark, please feel free to contact him at 276-791-3175 or frazimw9@gmail.com .	